

BARRE GAZETTE

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Vietnam veterans memorial site approved

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

HUBBARDSTON – Bill Shea of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee said the committee met informally to look at locations for the memorial on the common.

The select board later in the meeting officially appointed seven members to the committee. Shea said Hubbardston had about 35 veterans from the Vietnam era and 13 of them served in Vietnam, but there was no memorial to those veterans. He said the committee planned to have funding in place for the monument by Veterans Day 2021 and have the memorial in place by Veterans Day 2022. He said matching funds for the memorial were available up to \$20,000.

Shea said the memorial would be the same height as the WWI and WWII monuments. He said the memorial would include “Welcome Home” and it would have additional space to add names, in case a name was forgotten. He said it would follow the template of the WWI and WWII, which was a standard design. Shea also said the committee would be reaching out to find the Vietnam era veterans.

The select board unanimously approved the town common location. Select board chair Dan Galante said this memorial aligns with the reconstruction of the town center.

Five-year road maintenance plan

Department of Public Works director Travis Brown and acting town administrator David Nixon presented the select board with a five-year road maintenance plan. Hubbardston has 87 miles of road surfaces with 80 miles paved. The town will receive \$354,416 in Chapter 90 road repair money this year from the state. This year MassDOT, a fund sources other than Chapter 90 money will fund the Gardner Road, Evergreen Bridge and Route 62 culvert projects. The town also applied for STRAP grants.

MassDOT provided funding for the town center project estimated at \$4.3 million. The section of Rte. 68 from the Rutland line to Brigham Street was completed in 2018 and Curtis Recreation Field to the Gardner line was finished in 2020. The final phase, the town center section of Rte. 68 was estimated for completion in 2022-2023.

DPW director Brown said for roads to be environmentally safe, most of the emulsions were taken out of the mix. The roads did not last as long. He said applying a rejuvenator extends the life of roads five or six years. Brown said, “Winter beats up really good roads.” His department applied the rejuvenator to New Templeton Road, Hale Road, Healdville Road and Old Princeton at a cost of \$70,658.50 for 4.48 miles.

Proposed FY22 Chapter 90

Proposed FY 22 projects included Williamsville Road with an estimated cost for \$300,000 to reclaim and pave four inches of hot mix asphalt with berm; rejuvenator to Cross Street, New Templeton Road (Cross to Templeton), Ragged Hill Road, Old Princeton Road newer section and George Howard Road estimated cost \$62,300. Simmonds Hill Road estimate \$108,000 and

See HUBBARDSTON, page 5



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Easter Bunny visits New Braintree



Turley Publications Submitted Photo

This past Saturday, the Easter Bunny was aided by the New Braintree Fire Department with delivering goody bags to excited children in town. Riding along in the fire truck, the Easter Bunny visited children on close to 20 roads, stopping and posing for photos at each home. Once the deliveries were made, the fire truck stopped at the Town Hall where the Easter Bunny could meet with children waiting there.

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Board of Selectmen viewed a slide show presentation by members of the Friends of the Town House at their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 30.

Jim Buzzell, president of the Friends of the Town House, gave an update about the restoration project. He has been on the board of the Friends’ group for eight years and said, “I’ve never before felt as good as I do right now about how we’re positioned with our project.”

Another member of the group, Bonnie Milner, led a slide presentation and said they work with many other organizations, and were given a research person from the Architectural Heritage Foundation, analyzing what other rural communities have done with such buildings. She said so much is happening, including receiving an award of \$900,000 in state tax credits, as well as federal tax credits awarded up to 19% of the total construction budget. The group has also built a new website, been awarded tens of thousands of dollars in state and regional grants, and established official strategic partnerships with Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Berklee College of Music, Clark University, FlexCon and Long View Entertainment. These partnerships include both services and funding.

Buzzell credited many, not just the FOTH, for completing the repairs that have happened to

date, including the bell tower. He showed proposed plans that were drafted from the architectural feasibility study. He said there is a proposed restaurant in the basement, various office space, but nothing is “set in stone.”

The FOTH also collaborated with a coalition of experts to create a model that “includes creative programs and opportunities that will unite people around common purpose,” known as Rural Opportunity through Arts and Restoration.

Milner said they will be able to host festivals and performances, theatrical performances, and more. She said they also want to have space for local creative people. Milner said Vibram would like to host a shoemaking program. Other ideas include woodworking, robotics – “anything that requires out-of-the-box thinking or creativity is considered art,” Milner said. She said they will have makerspaces available for people to sign up and use.

FOTH member Eva Brown talked about the accomplishments the group has achieved in the past decade. “There’s an uptick in activity and receiving grants,” in the past three years, Brown said. She said being awarded the feasibility study from the Massachusetts Cultural Council “got them in the pipeline to receive other grant money.” She said having Milner join FOTH has been helpful in applying for grants

See TOWN HOUSE, page 6

Maureen Marshall wins selectman seat

Urban and Mobilio get full planning board, associate member

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

BARRE – About 12% of voters went to the polls for the annual town election April 5.

Since the pandemic began last year, the town held a town election, a state primary and a general election under COVID-19 precautions.

The town of Barre had 3,840 registered voters and 464 cast ballots in the town election with 255 from precinct 1 and 209 from precinct 2. Thirty-nine voters took out absentee ballots with 37 casting those ballots and two did not return them.

Maureen M. Marshall won a three-year term to the board of selectmen with 317 votes (185 pre-

cinct 1 and 132 precinct 2) over Troy Lee Valardi with 138 votes (65 precinct 1 and 73 precinct 2).

In the other two contests on the ballot, Matthew D. Urban won a five-year term to the planning board with 267 votes (154 precinct 1 and 113 precinct 2) against Anthony F. Mobilio with 165 votes (88 precinct 1 and 77 precinct 2). Anthony F. Mobilio won a one-year associate planning board position with 216 votes (111 precinct 1 and 105 precinct 2) against Frank W. LaRange with 130 votes (76 precinct 1 and 54 precinct 2).

All other positions on the ballot were uncontested. Joshua E. Smith won another one-year term as moderator with 374 votes (205 precinct 1 and 169 precinct 2). Robert W. A. Leroux had 355 votes (193 precinct 1 and 162 precinct 2) for another three-year term on the board of assessors and Michael B. Radesky got 329 votes (173 precinct 1 and 156 precinct 2) for three-year

See ELECTION, page 5

Revised school re-entry plan approved

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Superintendent Richard Lind presented the committee with their third revision of the North Brookfield Teachers Association’s Memorandum of Agreement during the School Committee meeting on March 31, which was approved by the board.

The MOA needed to be updated to reflect in-person teaching as the primary teaching model now that students will be returning to school full time. Lind said they did give families the option to keep their students remote, and there are about 35 students that will continue remote learning. Of

those students, 23 are high school-aged and the remainder are in the elementary school. Lind said that some teachers will remain in the remote-only program, while others have returned to the school buildings and will be positioned where needed. Lind said there were not any “huge” changes.

Lind said that as far as COVID-19 vaccinations for staff are concerned, they are strongly recommended but they cannot mandate them. He said they were able to have a vaccination clinic thanks to the Board of Health and Hannaford. Lind said if a staff member is vaccinated, they do not

See NB SCHOOL COMMITTEE, page 5

Town House restoration plans shared

By Paula Ouimette
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See TOWN HOUSE, page 6



Turley Publications Courtesy Photo

The North Brookfield Town House is in the process of restoration.

Food pantry to hold monthly distributions

BARRE – Once in a great while a month begins on a Thursday. This makes the third Thursday of the month immediately follow the second Wednesday. April is such a month.

As a result, the Barre Food Pantry’s two distributions in April will occur on successive days, Wednesday April 14 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and Thursday, April 15 from 5:30-7 p.m. The Wednesday morning distributions in 2021 are ending a half hour earlier than they have in the past, at 11:30 a.m. Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, April 14 or in the evening on Thursday, April 15, whichever is the more convenient for them.

The Barre Food Pantry volunteers strive to continue to fulfill their mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients. The pantry must also continue to protect clients, volunteers and the larger community from the catastrophic spread of the novel COVID-19 virus to which no-one has immunity. Many clients and volunteers are classified as high-risk due to their age and/or underlying health conditions.

As they have since last spring’s distributions, in order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients, April 14 and 15 will again be “drive-through” style distributions. Clients will line up in

See FOOD PANTRY, page 5

News of the Towns



Round Town
Ellenor Downer
413-967-3505

Girl Scouts to hold intro to outdoor skills

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts invites girls and their guardian to an Intro to Outdoor Skills event for girls currently in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, who are not yet Girl Scout members. It will be held Saturday, April 17 from 3-4 p.m. at the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St. Girls will earn their first Girl Scout patch while learning basic campfire building techniques, first aid and jackknife safety. Sign up is at <http://bit.ly/GSoutdoor>.

Space is limited. All COVID safety precautions will be followed. This is an outdoor event, dress accordingly. RSVP and register at: <http://bit.ly/GSoutdoor>. For more information, people may contact GSCWM recruitment manager Tammy Gilpatrick at tgillpatrick@gscwm.org or 508-749-3639.

Post 2 hall rentals now available
Effective immediately and in accordance with Governor Baker's directives, American Legion Barre Post 2, 450 South Barre Road, will be available for rentals. People should call 978-355-2730.

Food pantry reminder
Barre Food Pantry's two distributions in April will occur on successive days, Wednesday April 14 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and Thursday, April 15 from 5:30-7 p.m. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers.

Girl Scouts offer 'Intro to Outdoor Skills' event

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It was hats on for Easter in Phillipston

By Carole Gariepy

PHILLIPSTON – When Deacon Peter Haley sent out an email announcing that there would be an Easter Bonnet competition this year, we knew the day would not only be one to celebrate the risen Jesus, but would be one of fun and nostalgia.

Years ago a woman never went to church without wearing a hat and Easter was the time for purchasing a new hat and a new dress. Christmas services celebrating the birth of Jesus were special, but the service commemorating His rising from the dead was the highlight that demonstrated the promise of life after death for Christians. That's certainly something to dress up for.

The Phillipston service was held outside so everyone could easily practice all the protocols of Covid safety. It was cool, but the sun shone brightly on the masked faces that were so happy to greet each other, eyes showed the hidden smiles. Many gathered, some with lawn chairs to sit in, some stood, some spread blankets on the grass, others listened from their cars. Jane French usually plays her accordion for outside worship, but wanted the power of the organ to accompany the Easter service so the music of that instrument and voices of the choir were piped from inside to the outside speaker. It was very well done. Technology has been such an important part of life during this past year in so many ways. Thank you, Brian Nason.



Jo Ann Haley wears her Easter bonnet.



Turley Publications Courtesy Photos

Sunny Daoust brought her rabbits to celebrate Easter.

The message of the resurrection is a strong one. And the words of the hymns we sang lifted our hearts "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today," "I Know My Redeemer Lives" and "He Lives."

Pastor Stephanie Flynn's connection of the past to the present and promise of the future provided the congregation with a message of hope, and Deacon Peter's hat suggestion provided a message of nostalgia and fun. We learn from history. Easter is a time for rejoicing and celebrating. It was a joyful gathering in Phillipston. After the service people visited, examined each other's hats and the children hunted in the church yard for eggs in artistic origami Easter baskets made by the Girl Scouts.

Pictures were taken of all the hats and the winner of the Easter Bonnet contest will be announced next week.

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Tri-Parish Community Church news

NEW BRAINTREE – "Praise to the Lord the Almighty" rang out the organ played by Deborah Kent as the Tri-Parish Community Church celebrated Easter morning at the New Braintree Congregational Church. And, it was difficult to "sing softly" per instructions, when the service closed

with "Christ the Lord has Risen Today." The guest minister, Rev. Kathleen Fitzgibbons delighted the children with newly planted tulips and a story, "Mysteries." As the Tri-Parish continues its quest for a part-time pastor, Rev. Fitzgibbons will be here for one more week, April 11 at 10 a.m. in the New Braintree

Congregational Church. Again, all continue to be welcome. Masks must be worn and social distancing guidelines followed. The next Zoom business meeting of the Tri-Parish will be April 15 at 6 p.m. If anyone would like to participate, they may send their information to tcisholm527@gmail.com.

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Hubbardston

Ellenor Downer
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EGLT to hold trail clearing

East Quabbin Land Trust will continue building the trail at Henry's Grove, 70 Lombard Road, Sunday, April 10 from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteer last Saturday made great progress on the new three-mile long trail, but there's still more to do. People should RSVP to EQLT@comcast.net or 413-477-8229. They should park along Lombard Road and bring gloves, loppers and rakes. Drinks and light snacks will be provided.

Town wide cleanup

On Saturday, April 17, citizens of Hubbardston will work together to make their town a better place during the third annual Keep Hubbardston Beautiful Town wide Cleanup. Volunteers from the KHB Committee will be at the Curtis Recreation Field from 8 a.m. to noon to welcome people who've picked up trash and direct them toward the big red dumpster, generously provided by Pleasant View Waste Disposal. People who participate in the Town wide Cleanup will each receive a gift of a fresh sapling in honor of Earth Day, courtesy of R.S. Clapham Tree Service.

Girl Scout bottle drive

The Girl Scouts will be at the Curtis Recreation Field on Saturday, April 17 to collect donations of returnable bottles and cans. This fundraiser helps support troop activities.

Boy Scout electronic recycle day

Hubbardston Troop 22 is offering a fee-based recycling service one week before the town wide cleanup, April 10, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Curtis Recreation Field. Most items cost \$7 each to recycle; TVs and computer monitors are \$25 each. This is a way to support the Scouts by recycling electronic waste, scrap metal and old appliances. People may recycle electronics: all kinds of TVs (glass tube, console, projection, flat screen), laptops, computer monitors (glass tube and flat screen), computers, CPU boxes, all computer parts and accessories, keyboards, mice, cell phones, speakers, video games and systems, camera/video/audio equipment, fax/copy machines, printers, wires, plugs, drives, cards, servers. All computer hard drives are removed and shredded by the recycling company, Data Recycling of New England. Household appliances: All white goods including refrigerators, freezers, water heaters, stoves, dishwashers, washers and dryers, toasters, irons, hair dryers, vacuum cleaners, air conditioners and microwaves. Metal items (less than 8 ft long): Metal poles, metal desks, barbecue grills (no propane tanks), and pots. People should call or text Scoutmaster Scott Carignan at 978-928-5997 if their organization wants to recycle a large amount of items.

Senior center

The Hubbardston Senior Center will be reopening this month. The Council on Aging will review how things are going with the virus and plan accordingly. A council member will be checking the phone lines two or three times a week. The director, Claudia Provencal will be checking emails and Facebook every day. The drive through food and eggs will still be in place on Thursday mornings. Masks will be in place properly and distancing will be followed.

Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The following meals will be served for the week of April 12.

Meal sites are closed and there are only Meals on Wheels deliveries.

Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MON. – Shepherd's pie, carrots, peas, chocolate pudding, diet = sugar free chocolate pudding, marble rye bread

TUES. – Greek chicken, steamed white rice, roasted broccoli, peaches, pumpernickel bread
WED. – Meatloaf with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, chuck wagon corn, fresh fruit, whole wheat bread

THURS. – Turkey with supreme sauce, herbed stuffing, Roman blend vegetables, baked cinnamon pears, corn muffin

FRI. – Lemon pepper haddock, herbed potatoes, Jardiniere vegetables, cookie, whole wheat bread

*Diabetic friendly dessert

**Higher sodium entree

Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$2.50 per meal helps keep the program running.

Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at barrenews@turley.com or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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Opinion

Guest Column

FIELD NOTES
Hike like a hunter

By Mohawk Johnny

While I was bowhunting a few years ago, a woman and her shepherd dog came down the trail I was watching. They were moving at a good clip and had gotten very close when the dog picked up my scent, stopped, and looked up at me. The woman was oblivious to me until she noticed the dog had stopped. Then her eyes followed the dog's to my perch. "Oh, hi!" she said, somewhat startled. "I didn't see you there." "Great," I said. "My plan is working..." She giggled, called her dog and was off.

My brother told me a similar story: He'd once surprised a fellow who was also walking with his dog. Joe was in a ground blind, near a main trail, when the dog winded him and left the trail. Not wanting the dog to tarry and further contaminate the area with scent, Joe waved to the gentleman, who was quite surprised to see someone bowhunting and asked what Joe was hunting for. My brother replied, "Deer," and the man said he didn't know there were any around here—that he'd been hiking here for years and had never seen one. My brother told him that if he wanted to see more wildlife, he just needed to slow down.

Slowing down is a good way to see more of your surroundings, but if hikers really want to see more wildlife, they need to hunt for it. No, I'm not advocating that everybody take up a bow or a firearm—I've made my philosophical argument for hunting in these pages, so I won't belabor the point. I'm only suggesting that to enjoy wildlife, it helps to be able to see it. Sometimes, it's only a matter of slowing down, which allows taking in more of one's surroundings. Many animals aren't especially sensitive to minor disturbances in their environment and will move around at ease in the presence of humans if they don't perceive a threat, but one needs to spend more time looking and less time moving to see them, as they often blend in very well with their surroundings. You must be able to discern tiny details to pick them out—you can't do that if you're constantly in motion.

To observe certain types of animals requires even greater care and patience. Game animals are so called because they are challenging to harvest—there's a reason for that: Generally, they tend to possess enough muscle mass relative to their size that they are desirable as a source of food—either to humans or other predators. Animals that are on the menu have evolved very keen senses of sight, smell and or hearing, but the weapons race isn't only sensory; prey animals also have behavioral traits in their defensive quivers. Many will cease daytime activity in favor of a more crepuscular (active at dusk and dawn) existence or even go nocturnal when there's a preponderance of predators, human or otherwise, skulking about. Due to this adaptive paranoia, it's easy to see why the woods can seem devoid of animals to the uninitiated.

If you wish to see predators, well, you'll likely need to step up your game. Since predators must hunt for their food, their senses must also be finely tuned—add to this, the adversarial relationship they've had with other predators, including humans, for millions of years. We've been rivals for food resources, both domestic and wild, and in many cases, we've been predators of each other. The combined pressures of having to hunt for a living, as well as being hunted, have been honing the defensive arsenals of predators to a keen edge since the dawn of multi-cellular life.

If you're hiking for the cardio-vascular benefits and just want to exercise in the great outdoors, that's great—there's no better place, and you may very well occasionally happen across the odd fox or raccoon, but if you really want to see a predator, you must be a predator—a stealthy one. You must avoid detection by sight, sound, and smell, and you must also create an environment for your own senses to work more acutely. Moving s-l-o-w-l-y and stopping often will go a long way toward allowing you to see and hear more and to be seen and heard less.

Navigating with GPS on your personal device will allow you to get a bit off the beaten path, but you have to slow down even more because the untrodden ground is much noisier to walk on. Keep the wind in your face; take just a step or two at a time, and spend more time looking than you do walking. You will be amazed at how much wildlife you've been missing.

So, whatever your reason for being out of doors, happy hunting!

John J. Dube is a Ware resident who has hunted for many years.

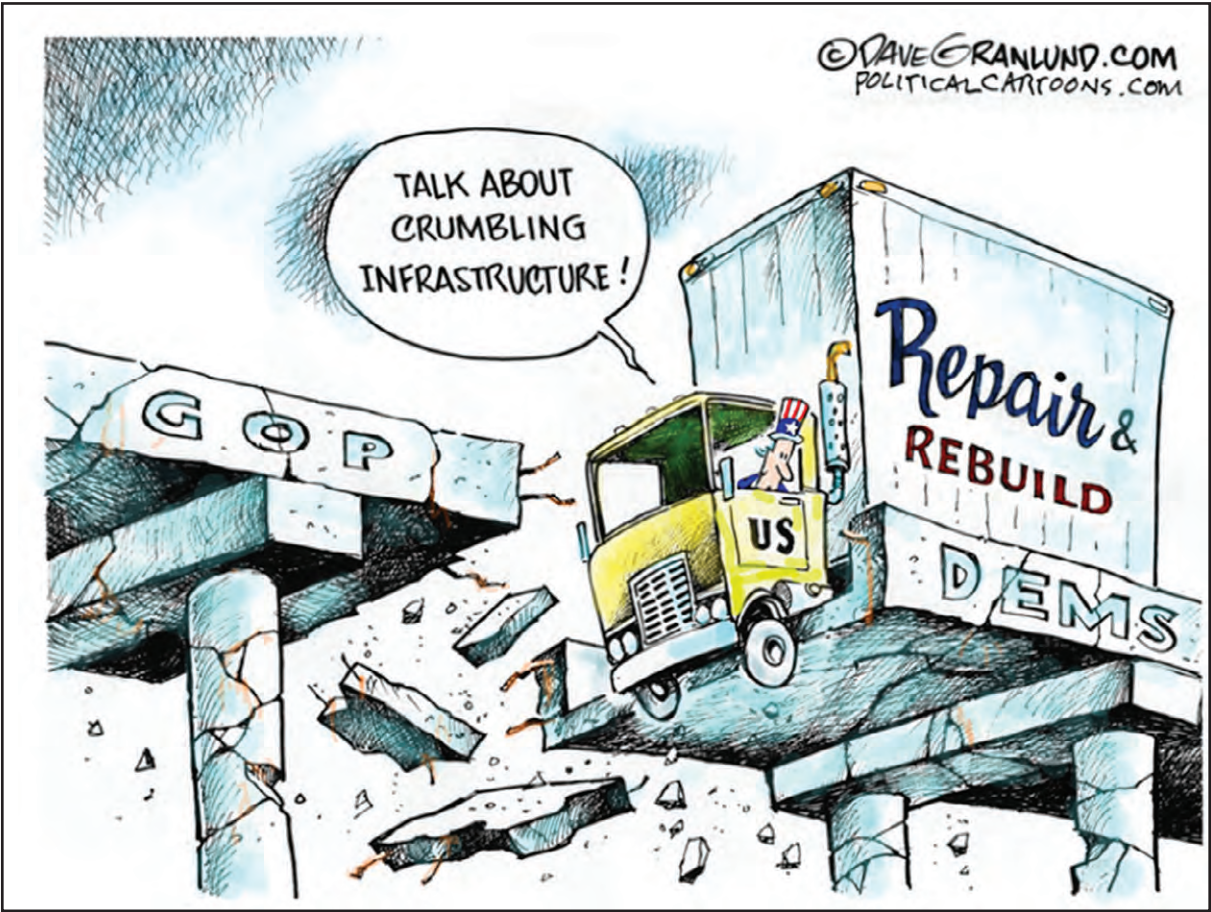
NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

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In Past Pages

w5 years ago (April 2016)

Police Chief Gehring introduced several police officers to the board of selectmen. The board appointed Matt Mardirosian, Christopher Poe and Heather Pekin as part-time officers, Joshua Pease as auxiliary officer and John Harrington as special officer. The appointments were until June 30, 2016 when they would be eligible for reappointment for one-year, July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

As cookie season for Girl Scouts comes to a close, troops look for places to donate their unsold cookies. This year troop 11142, in the Furniture loop service unit, decided to donate locally. Troop 11142 Junior Girl Scouts decided that local heroes deserved a sweet treat. The girls chose their hometown of Barre and the neighboring town of Hubbardston to donate cookies to the fire department and police department. On a half-day of school and before a meeting, the girls traveled to each station with ribbon-adorned boxes for the staff of each department. Troop 11142 received a very warm welcome and some cool tours of the stations. Troop members include: Abigail Hughes, Brianna Whitelaw, Isabel Tortora, Kelsey Marsh and Madeline Oliver.

Thanks to the work of the North Brookfield chapter of Hearts for Heat a donation from North Brookfield Savings Bank, many residents didn't have to endure another New England winter without heat. On March 10, North Brookfield Savings Bank presented a \$1,500 check to Tina Buzzell, Ellen Smith, Sue Lewandowski and Tom Lewandowski of the North Brookfield chapter of Hearts for Heat, a community-based, non-profit organization dedicated to covering fuel costs to provide heat for residents in need. The \$1,500 check represented a matching donation equal to what residents contributed during the Hearts for Heat capital campaign.

10 years ago (April 14, 2011)

Pamela Hinckley, owner of Custom Sewing in Ware, visited Mrs. Terrien's third grade class at Hardwick Elementary School to teach them basic sewing techniques. The students took a field trip to Old Sturbridge Village recently and learned that in the 1840s, women and girls made all of the clothing for the their families. "What they learned there was a bit limited, so on my first visit to the class, we learned about quilt making and fabrics to give them some background." On March 28 Hinckley visited the class again to teach the students how to make a pincushion.

The Petersham Memorial Library recently celebrated its newest members to the Francis Henry Lee Society at the Annual Library Tea. With nearly 100 patrons, friends and family gathered, former Petersham Memorial Library Trustees, Thomas Anderson, Talitha Lent, John Pope and Fifi Scoufopoulos and assistant library director, Jeanne Forand were inducted into the society to honor

LOOK BACK
New Braintree Science Fair - 1996



Jamie Lee discovered how yeast works

their significant and generous contributions.

On Sunday, April 10, the Orthodox Congregational Church of Petersham ordained their settled minister, Debra Marie Arnold of Oakham. About 175 people attended with six churches represented. The ceremony began with the lighting of candles by acolyte Joan Regan and the welcome and greeting by Vickie Williams. Her husband, the Rev. Russell Arnold, minister of the Oakham Congregational Church, gave the ordination message. Her husband told of her affiliation to ten churches in her spiritual journey.

25 years ago (April 11, 1996)

Academic honors for the winter term at Northfield Mount Hermon School have been awarded to Jake Davis, a junior and son of Dr. David H. Davis and Karen Davis of Petersham. He is a member of the varsity/junior varsity wrestling and junior lacrosse teams and the Mount Hermon dean's advisory committee and has participated in the NHM farm program. He has also studied advance placement physics. At Northfield Mount Herman, an independent, co-educational college preparatory school, honors students must have a term average of at least B, with no grade below B minus. They must also demonstrate good citizenship and complete physical education and work program requirements.

On March 24 the Barre Fire Department learned the skills of cold-water rescue. Members of the North Brookfield Fire Department's Cold Water Dive Team, which is a member of the Quaboag Regional Dive Team, supplied the training session. Members of the Barre Fire Department were taught how to enter cold water or ice wearing a cold-water rescue suit, which is insulated by a foam material. They tied a rescue line to the victim, them both the rescuer and victim were pulled to safety. Training sessions were held at Allen's Foundry. Barre Fire Department has two cold-water rescue suits. The Barre Fire Department thanked members of the North Brookfield Dive Team Joe Holway, Brad Gannon, Tim Batchler, Pete Shipman and Kevin Rockwood for coming to Barre to

teach these skills.

For the past two years, Cadette Girl Scouts in Barre have been collecting returnable bottles and cans at the Barre landfill. During this time, they made \$1,200 for their efforts in collecting more than 20,000 cans and bottles and donated \$1,000 to the Refuge Apostolate in Worcester, an organization which provides a food distribution program to neighborhood food pantries. They won a national award for their efforts, taking third place in the 1995 "Colgate Youth of America" campaign and winning a \$300 prize. They were thrilled to win the award and gratified to see how their efforts paid off in helping the less fortunate. But the learning they gained from the experience is perhaps the most valuable reward of all, according to their leader, Erin Stevens.

38 years ago April 14, 1983

A total of 50 votes were cast in the annual town election, Monday, April 4. For the first time in the memory of poll workers, one candidate received 100% of the votes cast. Robert J. Trzpit, candidate for re-election to the office of treasurer, received all 500 of the votes.

Ella Wells of Elm Street was proud to sit with her daughter, Clara Wead and her daughter, Marie Drake and her son, Derek Drake, 2 years old, at the Sunday Easter Service at the Evangelical Congregational Church. Mrs. Wells is a 60-year member of the church. All four generations live in Hubbardston.

Robert M. Grandone, foreign language department head at Quabbin Regional High School, is pleased to announce that Ann Bechan has been awarded a certificate of excellence by the board of directors of the Northeast Conference on Teaching of Foreign Languages. Ms Bechan has been recognized for outstanding achievement in the study of Latin language and culture. Not only has she excelled in the study of Latin, but she has been an active member for the past four years. Ann's name will be listed in the forthcoming edition of the Northeast Conference Bulletin on the Teaching of Foreign Language.

Guest Column

Adventures of Gertrude the Cat

By Ruth Robinson

Dear Folks,
I awoke this morning full of pep. Now, I need to find something to do. Missy has just taken a shower so I will hurry in and get my paws washed with the drain water and then have a grooming session. I like to keep myself looking good.

Yesterday, Missy's granddaughter was here playing with her toys and her little four inch doll, she keeps hidden in one of the baskets under the TV table. She forgot to push the basket all the way in when she left so I will see if I can pull it off the shelf and onto the floor. Yep, with a few hard tugs I got it down and it tipped over on its side and the doll fell out. I better leave the doll alone so it doesn't get lost.

Missy is busy sewing so she won't see the basket for a while. This week I saw the music cabinet door ajar in the computer room so I will see if I can get into that. Before I do I will go behind the computer table and see about a screen lying against the wall. It has been there a long time as Missy never puts that one in the window in the summer. It should be good to sharpen my claws on. Whoops, I just made a big line hole down the center of the screen. I guess I better move and leave it alone.

I got the cabinet door open, but there are so many books inside that there isn't very much room for me. Perhaps, if I squeeze my body a little I can manage. Yep, I got my body in, but no room to turn around, so I'll have to back out. Darn, I thought maybe I had found another hiding place for when I get into trouble. No such luck.

Well, I will just go back in the living room and have my morning nap in that basket I tipped over. I'll bet Missy won't know where to look for me this time, ha ha.

Have a good week folks.
Love,
Gertrude



2021 Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005 or via email to edowner@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

BARRE GAZETTE

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

I hope those families, who could get together, enjoyed Easter and were able to go to church. We decided it was not a good idea to get together yet as some of our grandchildren don't have their vaccine yet.

We both worked outside getting the yard cleaned up and I got four buckets of aged manure to put on my rose bushes. Hopefully they will produce nice blossoms this year.

I made a batch of chilli one day, which lasted two days and a beef stew in the crock pot, which lasted two days so I didn't have to stop and cook a meal for two days. I just had to heat them up.

My dear friend from N.H. was writing how she loves to cook in her old cast iron fry pan and I also like to for certain things. The other day I had a little fire on the bottom of the fry pan as I find I can clean the inside well but the bottom causes a problem. I did send one cast iron fry pan down to my son-in-law

and he sand blasted the bottom to clean it. For some reason it cakes up on the bottom. I do season the inside often.

In the garden

The daffodils are budded, crocus are up and there are still some snow drops out. This year I have a very good display of blossoms on my Helleborus plant. It likes where I have it under a tree in the backyard.

This and That

On April Fool's day, we got a telephone call that a florist was delivering some flowers and would we be home. I was not sure if it was an April Fools joke but sure enough a large bouquet of carnations, ferns and asters arrived with an Easter Lily. Our eldest daughter and her family are so thoughtful and felt bad that we could not join them for Easter. They were planning a clam bake.

My friend sent me this recipe for corn fritters; corn is one of my favorite vegetables.

CORN FRITTERS

1 cup flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 eggs, separated
2 cups corn kernels
1/4 cup milk
vegetable oil for frying
1 cup pure maple syrup

In a bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder and salt. In another bowl, beat the egg yolks until light. Alternately stir the corn, milk and flour mixture into the egg yolks; the batter will be very dry. In another bowl, beat egg whites until soft peaks form; fold into corn batter. Heat 1/2 inch of vegetable oil until hot. Drop tablespoonfuls of batter into the hot oil and fry until golden brown on all sides. Drain on paper towels serve hot with maple syrup for dipping.

Have a nice week and try to get a walk in. My walks are raking and loading wheel barrows with leaves.

The best way to root stem cuttings

Neil, who reads the column in the Wilbraham Times, asked the Garden Lady to write about taking stem cuttings. He enjoyed my commentary on houseplants from a few weeks back and seemed interested in trying his hand at propagating some of his own plants by this method. Here you go, Neil! I wish you loads of success.

Getting a piece of stem to form roots is relatively easy. Here are a few tips that will guarantee your success. First, make sure that the plant you are taking the cuttings from, called the "stock plant," is insect and disease-free and well hydrated. Plan to take cuttings in the morning before the heat of the day has a chance to cause any wilting. A clean, sharp pair of scissors or hand pruners is the best tool for the job. Cuttings can be taken at any time during the growing season. Spring is a great time to take cuttings of plants that you've overwintered provided they are growing well. Just this past week I took cuttings of both scented geraniums and rosemary.

Begin by examining your stock plant. Those stems with the closest placed nodes are the best choice for cutting material. Nodes are the point on the stem from which the leaves grow. There is a strong accumulation of hormones in this area; for that reason stem cuttings are taken just after a node. Terminal cuttings, (those from the growth tip) three to four inches long are desirable.

It is tempting to take longer pieces, figuring that the end result will be a larger plant. These are likely to wilt before they root or take a very long time to root because the stems are woodier the further down you go. Play it safe with stout cuttings.

There are all kinds of potting mediums in which to place the cutting while it is grows roots. Ideally it should be able to hold enough moisture to keep the cutting turgid yet not hold so much that it rots the stem. Sand, perlite, and soilless potting mixes have all been used with success. Water is not recommended as "watery roots" will have a harder time adapting to potting soil later on. I have had good luck rooting cuttings in peat-based potting mixes that are formulated for seed starting. Moisten the material well and fill your clean container of choice up to the top and tamp it down.

Cut only a few cuttings at a time so that wilting doesn't occur while you prepare the stems for insertion into the growing medium. Strip off the bottom one-third of leaves from the cutting. If you wish to shorten the amount of time it takes for rooting to occur, a commercial rooting hormone can be used. These come in powder or liquid forms. Follow the directions on the container. I

have found that "less is more" when using these products. When you are ready to "stick" the cutting make an indentation into the growing medium with a pencil or dibble first; do not push in with the stem! After the cutting is inserted, firm the medium around it well so that it stays in place. Put the container, cuttings and all in a clear plastic bag and place in a shady location. The humidity within the bag ought to prevent the stems from wilting. Water well, only about once weekly. After a month or so, roots will begin to form on the scented geraniums; rosemary may take six weeks or more.

Transplanting into individual pots can be done once the roots equal or surpass the size of the cutting. I like to start out with a small pot and transplant up a size or two at a time as the plant grows; likewise, using newly-rooted cuttings together in a mixed planter works well, too.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

HUBBARDSTON, continued from page 1

Ed Clark Road estimate \$41,000 were also on the list.

Proposed FY23 plan

Thompson Road estimated cost \$237,00 and Kruse Road estimated cost \$204,000 were on the FY23 plans with reclaim and paving. Root Road was on the list for rejuvenator with an estimated cost of \$83,000 for the full road.

Proposed FY24 plan

The FY 24 plan included Elm Street estimate \$100,000 for reclaim and pave, Brigham Street estimate of \$193,000 for reclaim and pave from Main Street to the bridge and Brigham Street estimate \$50,000 for 20% crumb rubber from bridge to New Westminster Road. Also on the list were Barre Road estimate \$77,000, Barre Cut Off Road estimate \$11,000 and Parsons Road estimate \$24,000.

Proposed FY25 plan

Roads on the FY25 list included Pitcherville Road estimate \$231,000 and Birches Road estimate \$94,000. Also on the list were Cross Road from New Templeton to Ragged Hill estimate \$106,000 and Ragged Hill Road from Birches to Templeton Line estimate \$11,000.

Proposed FY26 plan

Roads on the FY 26 plan included Dogwood Road North, Laurel Street, Gordie Lane, Simmonds Hill Road and Ed Clarke Road.

Other business

The select board approved an agreement from TPX Communications to upgrade the telephone system. Select board member Kris Pareago asked the acting town administrator to look at possible funds to fix the bandstand roof at Curtis Recreation Field.

Town clerk, Laurie Reed, announced nomination papers for the annual town election were available now through April 20 for the annual election of June 8 by appointment.

ELECTION, continued from page 1

term board of health. Ronald A. Hoseley won another three-year term as water commissioner with 361 votes (198 precinct 1 and 163 precinct 2) and John J. Chase won another three-year term as sewer commissioner with 383 votes (210 precinct 1 and 173 precinct 2).

Other candidates running unopposed for re-election were Susan E. LaRose with 352 votes (193 precinct 1 and 159 precinct 2) for a five-year term to the Barre Housing Authority and Justin C. Pollard with 352 votes (193 precinct 1 and 159 precinct 2) for a three-year term as Felton

Field Commissioner.

Library trustee and Quabbin Regional School Committee each had two positions available for three-year terms. Cherie E. Benoit had 351 votes (197 precinct 1 and 154 precinct 2) and David A. Deschamps had 366 (203 precinct 1 and 163 precinct 2) for the two library trustees positions. David A. Deschamps also won one of the three-year terms to the Quabbin Regional School Committee with 365 votes (precinct 1 204 and 161 precinct 2) and Stanley "Lee" Wolanin won the other term with 326 votes (181 precinct 1 and 145 precinct 2). Both were candidates for re-election.

NB SCHOOL COMMITTEE, continued from page 1

need to quarantine if they are in close contact with a positive person. He said they did leave two administrative days for testing. If they test positive due to contact at the schools, they will not be charged for their sick leave time. Lind said they have a "very positive" work environment with their union and they are on board with getting students back in school.

School Committee Chair Maria Tucker thanked Lind and the school staff, saying they have been fortunate with the relationship staff and administrators have together.

Revised re-entry plan

Lind said he, High School Co-Principal Jeanne Powers and Elementary Principal Sarah Priestley all worked together to produce the revised re-entry plan with in-person learning as the primary model. Lind said the biggest change is going from six feet

of physical distancing down to three feet, along with protocols dealing with vaccinated individuals. The revised re-entry plan was approved unanimously.

Increase in preschool rates

Director of Student Services Mark Minucci asked to increase tuition rates for the district's preschool program by 3%. Minucci said it has been two years since their last increase and that it is inflationary based. He said the cost of items has gone up and this 3% increase would help off-set those costs. Minucci said the program works closely with Early Intervention and many families from outside the district ask to apply. The School Committee approved the proposed preschool tuition rate increase.

School bus routes

Lind said that AA Transportation Co. will be releasing the revised bus routes by April 1. He will post them online and notify the families when they are finalized.

Hardwick

Hardwick has first structure fire of the year

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

HARDWICK – A call came in for a structure fire Tuesday at 7:59 a.m. A detached garage at 2259 Greenwich Road was engulfed as a result of a possible electrical fire, said Hardwick Fire Chief Raymond S. Walker. Walker said there was underground electrical service to the garage.

Walker immediately called Ware Fire Department for mutual aid, as the property is closer to Ware.

Three Hardwick firefighters in addition to Walker arrived just behind Ware's tanker truck, with many more arriving soon after. The garage was a total loss, but the crews were able to prevent the fire from spreading to the nearby house.

Walker said this is the first structure fire of the year for Hardwick, although they have



Turley Publications staff photo

Hardwick had its first structure fire of the year Tuesday morning when a garage 2259 Greenwich Road burned due to an electrical fire.

responded to many mutual aid calls. Ware Fire Chief Christopher Gagnon said his department had

responded to a dryer fire earlier that same morning on North Street in Ware.

Hardwick election is Monday at HES

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

HARDWICK – Voters will go to the polls Monday, from 10 a.m. to 8 a.m., at the Hardwick Elementary School. Voting will be held in the gymnasium with no access from the cafeteria.

There are two contested races, that of selectmen and Gilbertville-Wheelwright Water Pollution Control sewer commissioner, with incumbent Kenan

Young looking to be re-elected to both positions, and facing a challenge from H. Robert Ruggles. The other candidates are Kathryn W. Hosley for a three-year term as assessor, Judith Berg Kohn, for a three-year term on the Board of Health, Stanley H. Remiszewski, for a two-year term on the Board of Health, Erik L. Fleming and Eic W. Volheim, for two, three-year term on the Board of Health, Christopher M. Buelow and

Jennifer E. Garvey, for two terms as Paige Memorial Library Trustees, Stanley D. White as a write-in candidate for a five-year term as a Paige Agricultural Fund Trustee as no one took out papers for that seat.

No one took out papers for the three-year K-12 Quabbin Regional School Committee. Edward N. Kelly, who was coming to the end of his three-year term chose not to seek re-election

FOOD BANK continued from page 1

their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church.

They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or way-back of their vehicle by volunteers.

Based on the success of distributions over the past year, the food pantry volunteers believe this "drive-through" style is the safest possible way to get food to clients and to help keep everyone well.

Before the pandemic pantry volunteers and clients were able to greet each other with a smile.

With all volunteers and clients now wearing masks in public, the volunteers hope that everyone will still hear the smiles in their voices.

Volunteers should not arrive on April 14 or 15 without first contacting either Dave Petrovick at 978-355-4519 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

Because conditions have been changing rapidly, people should continue to check for updates on the Barre Food Pantry website at <http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm> the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>.

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CLUES ACROSS
1. One who manufactures
6. Science degree
9. Database management system
13. Desert
14. Inventor Musk
15. Welsh valley
16. Round Dutch cheese
17. Saying
18. Comedian and TV host
19. Uppermost portions of the brain
21. City in Transylvania
22. Where astronauts go
23. Men's hairstyle
24. Indicates position
25. One point east of due south
28. Businessmen may have one
29. Grass part
31. Running back Gurley
33. Unwavering

CLUES DOWN
36. Options
38. Annoy
39. Greek mountain
41. Pastas
44. Fishes
45. Wrap
46. Potentially a criminal (slang)
48. Seize
49. The Constitution State
51. Upset
52. 1991 men's Wimbledon champ
54. Central Chinese province
56. Predisposition
60. A notice of someone's death
61. One-time Kentucky Rep.
62. Swiss river
63. Dried-up
64. Finger millet
65. __ Allan Poe
66. German river
67. Brew

CLUES ACROSS
68. Kenyan river
26. __ or bust
27. Icelandic poems
29. A citizen of Pakistan
30. Very pale
32. Metric linear unit
34. Sea eagle
35. Biblical judge of Israel
37. Isaac's mother (Bib.)
40. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
42. Cool!
43. Large hotel room
47. Type of boat (abbr.)
49. Picked
50. Type of hookah
52. Attack
53. Directs
55. Belgian WWII resistance fighter
56. Finished negotiation
57. Heroic tale
58. Middle Eastern country
59. Protein-rich liquids
61. Malaysian Isthmus
65. Spielberg's alien

ANSWERS ON PAGE 12

Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week’s mystery photo is from Hardwick. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, April 12. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in next week’s edition. Gary Brigham, Dick Clark, Stephen Craven, Dave Hardaker, Barbara Kempfski, Evelyn Luukko and Bruce Towner correctly identified the photo. Last week’s photo was Kendall Plains Burial Grounds on Old Coldbrook Road.

Daffodils add touch of yellow



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

These daffodils are located in a garden by the Oakham Congregational Church.

TOWN HOUSE

continued from page 1

because her business, Long View Entertainment, is well-known for having hosted a number of famous musicians, including the Rolling Stones. Brown also credited the Architectural Heritage Foundation for providing expert help in writing grants.

Brown said five to eight experts from MassDevelopment and Urban Land Institute will come to North Brookfield in late May/early June to meet with town officials and stakeholders, then host a public webinar. Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission has also requested that Brown and FOTH member Marilynn Borst write and expression of interest for the Community One Stop for Growth.

Milner said that “every-one working together” and “pulling in the same direc-

tion” has made this venture successful. FOTH member Maureen Wesolaski thanked those that have supported them, especially Vice-Chairman Jason Petraitis, who is “devoted to the arts,” in North Brookfield. She said, “people are coming out of the woodwork to support us financially, emotionally, physically to get this thing done.” Wesolaski said she wanted the board to know what they were doing and the direction they were heading in.

Chairman Dale Kiley thanked them for the updates and shared his ideas for metered parking, especially when the Town House begins hosting performances.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Education

QCC offers information session for Becker students

WORCESTER – Quinsigamond Community College will host a virtual information session for Becker College students on Thursday, April 8 from 4-5 p.m. The session offers current Becker students information on how to transfer into QCC. Prospective Becker students are also invited to join.

QCC recently signed a transfer agreement and memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Becker College to assist current Becker students in transferring into the college to continue their studies. The agreement is for all current Becker students in programs transferrable into QCC’s comparable programs that include: Associate Degree in Business Administration Transfer, Associate Degree in Criminal

Justice, Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education, Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education Birth – Eight Years Old (Evening Only) and Associate Degree Nurse Education.

At QCC, students can attend for free by qualifying for financial aid and the college has increased its financial support to students during the pandemic, with over \$3 million in emergency aid from federal, state and institutional funds. QCC’s Student Emergency Fund is also available to current students in significant hardship due to the pandemic, regardless of citizenship, residency or enrollment status.

Students can start at QCC then transfer their credits into a bachelor

degree program, through transfer agreements with a vast array of colleges and universities, saving them thousands.

“QCC has been a smarter option in higher education for so many in the region. We look forward to Becker students realizing the opportunities that are afforded to them here,” President Louis G. Pedraja, Ph.D said.

Registration is required to attend the information session. For more information and to register, students may visit <https://www.QCC.edu/becker>.

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, director of institutional communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

Community read of ‘Underland’ continues April 17

FITCHBURG – Fitchburg State University’s Community Read of “Underland” by Robert MacFarlane continues with university faculty leading a virtual discussion of the book’s eighth chapter at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 17.

“Red Dancers: Art Emerging from the Darkness” will be hosted virtually by the Leominster Public Library, one of the university’s Community Read partners. To attend the discussion people may register in advance at [https://zoom.us/join/register/tJ0rde6vqj0sH9MGn-](https://zoom.us/join/register/tJ0rde6vqj0sH9MGn-VWji_hAXnu-K9k9F5L6)

[VWji_hAXnu-K9k9F5L6](https://zoom.us/join/register/tJ0rde6vqj0sH9MGn-VWji_hAXnu-K9k9F5L6).

This event features Fitchburg State Professors Sarah Bromberg, Sally Moore and Jessica Robey, all of the Humanities Department.

Robey will provide an overview of the discovery of prehistoric cave art and its reception in the 20th century. Moore will give an overview of the role of the shaman in tribal society, discuss the inward vs outward journey and will present examples of her own shamanic masks as well as those of her students.

Bromberg will present an overview and analysis of cave art imagery, particularly prehistoric cave art in France and Norway, with photographs. She’ll discuss her students’ sketching of cave paintings as a means to developing their own observations and interpretations of these ancient masters.

This event is sponsored by the Leominster Public Library’s Eliane and Maurice Tonkin Memorial Fund.

People may learn more at fitchburgcommunityread.com.

Northern Vermont University announces president and dean lists

JOHNSON/LYNDONVILLE, VT – Northern Vermont University announces its president’s and dean lists for the fall 2020 semester.

Lauryn Brown of Barre was named to the president’s list. Students, who achieve a 4.00 semester average, are placed on the

president’s list.

Ward Holloway and Nicholas Lambert, both of Barre and Carson Puliafico of Rutland made dean’s list for the fall 2020 semester. Students, who achieve between a 3.50 and 3.99 semester average, are placed on the dean’s list.

Worcester Academy announces honor roll and headmaster’s list

WORCESTER – Worcester Academy announces its honor roll and headmaster’s list for semester 1 of the 2020-2021 school year.

Local students making the headmaster’s list are: Avery

Galante of Hubbardston, Class of 2024 and

Lillian Reynolds of North Brookfield, Class of 2021. Emma McCarthy of New Braintree, Class of 2022, made second honors.

Fitchburg State planning for in-person fall semester

FITCHBURG – Citing the increase in available COVID-19 vaccinations and a downward trend in cases, Fitchburg State University plans a return to a fully in-person experience for the fall 2021 semester, President Richard S. Lapidus announced Wednesday.

“Fitchburg State University is planning to return to in-person classes and a vibrant campus life in fall 2021,” President Lapidus said. “With an increase in the number of vaccinations becoming available, and coronavirus cases expected to trend downward, we are optimistic that we will be able to welcome back our students, faculty, and staff to a high-quality, on-campus experience in September.”

The university will continue to act in accordance with federal, state and local health guidelines,

reviewing its operational plans in response to any changing conditions, President Lapidus said, “As has always been the case, all decisions will prioritize the health and safety of our campus community and the city in which we reside.”

“For prospective students and for those returning, we know that this past year has been difficult for you and your families in so many ways,” President Lapidus said. “In an effort to ease the financial burden of attendance, the university has decided to freeze its tuition and university fee. Taken together, not including financial aid opportunities, this makes the annual cost of a Fitchburg State educational experience among the lowest of all four-year colleges in New England.”

For more information, people may visit fitchburgstate.edu.

QCC students encourage community to get vaccinated

WORCESTER – Quinsigamond Community College is taking to the airways to deliver an important message to students and the community-at-large, get vaccinated.

The college has put together an informational website with a series of public service videos from QCC students in English, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Vietnamese and Albanian. The videos are designed to engage, inform and encourage people to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

In addition to the videos, the website includes information about the vaccine in English, Spanish and Vietnamese, as well as vaccination locations and eligibility phases.

“These public service announcements are designed to help increase the dissemination of accurate information about the COVID-19 vaccines. Let’s all get vaccinated as soon as we are eligible. The vaccines have been shown to be highly effective, and the faster we get vaccinated when eligible, the more we can begin to do some of the things we did prior to the pandemic,” said President Luis. G. Pedraja, Ph.D.

To learn more about the vaccine and clinic locations, people may visit www.QCC.edu/C19VAXFACTS.

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Fall 2 season not kind to Panthers

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

GARDNER – It has been a struggle during the Fall 2 season for the Quabbin Regional High School football team.

The Panthers are out to an 0-2 start in their five-game schedule, which consists of the teams in what is known as “Pod 4.”

The pods were created to limit the exposure Central Massachusetts teams had during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, Quabbin has been playing all of its games away from home due to the field at Quabbin Regional High School being unplayable in the early spring.

Most of the games in the Fall 2 season are being played at Gardner High School, which has an artificial turf field.

On Saturday, March 27, Quabbin had its first game of the season against Narragansett. The Warriors were able to score early and often and got a 35-8 win.

Quabbin had a difficult time getting the offense going, and their defense was unable to stop the scoring drives the Warriors put together in the first half. Narragansett would score twice in each of the first and second quarters, going up 29-0 at halftime.

The Warriors would slow things down a bit, adding a third quarter touchdown, but nothing else after that.

Quabbin’s Owen Faulha would score the only touchdown of the game, and the season, thus far, for the Panthers. He was able to break free from the 40-yard line and score a touchdown. Following the score, Aiden Notarogiacomo caught a pass for a two-point conversion.

On Saturday, April 3, the Panthers were back at Gardner High School, looking to even up their record against the hosts of the games, Gardner.

Unfortunately, it was another tough day for the defense. Gardner did almost all of its scoring in the first half and came away with a 38-0 victory. The Wildcats scored three times just in the first quarter to pull away from the game early. The Panthers had huge trouble with Zach Lemoine, who had three touchdowns and 162 yards on the ground. Jarel Arroyo scored the other two touchdowns. All five scores for Gardner were scored on the ground.

This weekend, Quabbin is scheduled to play at Lunenburg High School. It is the only game away from Gardner Quabbin will be playing. They will have the team they used to spend Thanksgiving at until a year ago.



File photos

Quabbin football plays last year at home. The Panthers are unable to use their field this spring.



The Panthers have been struggling so far in the Fall 2 season.



The Panthers hope to be back on their regular grass field this fall.

All NE-10 colleges to make playoffs

COLCHESTER, Vt. - The Northeast-10 Conference unveiled its postseason plan for the spring semester on Thursday, announcing all baseball, men’s and women’s lacrosse, softball and men’s and women’s tennis programs will automatically qualify for league tournaments while also revealing the date and location of the men’s golf championship. Saint Michael’s College sponsors all seven of these sports, with each program having begun competition already this spring.

Similar to the adjustments made to spring schedules as part of the conference’s return-to-play plan, the NE10 has altered postseason competition formats in an effort to reduce travel and allow for regular COVID-19 surveillance testing. The allowance of full-field postseason formats factors in the reality of teams not being able to complete their full regular-season schedules due to COVID-19 protocol and therefore allows each team the opportunity to compete for a league championship.

Key changes to the normal postseason format includes a one-day,

36-hole men’s golf championship on April 20 at Springfield Country Club in West Springfield, Mass. For baseball, women’s lacrosse and softball, whose regular seasons are being played within divisions, the postseason format retains a divisional format until the final championship event or series. Both divisions have their own seven-team bracket to determine which two schools will play for that NE10 championship, as the top seed from each draws a first-round bye while the second through fourth seeds host opening-round contests. The women’s lacrosse tournament begins on April 30, softball on May 4 and baseball on May 11. Divisional finals for baseball and softball are best-of-three series before the Northeast and Southwest division winners meet in another best-of-three set.

The seven-team men’s tennis championship begins on April 24, when the No. 1 seed receives a bye while the second- through fourth-seeded squads host opening-round matches. Women’s tennis

See COLLEGES, page 10

State tournament added for spring sports

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – This fall, a statewide tournament will take the place of the Western Massachusetts tournaments schools in the region have been used to for many years.

This school year was supposed to be the final year of the sectional tournaments held that are sponsored by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association. However, two of those tournaments, the fall and winter, were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It also cancelled what existed for a state tournament, which consisted of sectional champion versus sectional champion. The four sectional champions would meet in semifinals and then finals.

While the MIAA was looking to hold a spring tournament, it was only going to occur at the sectional level. Now, the Board of Directors have approved the two-game state tournaments for the spring season,

which will begin on Monday, April 26. There will be a short preseason and games will begin in early May.

The spring season is set to include baseball, softball, lacrosse, tennis, outdoor track, and boys volleyball. It is also supposed to include wrestling, a winter sport that was deemed to high to happen during the winter while there was a second major spike in COVID-19 cases.

The MIAA Tournament Management Committee met on Thursday, March 25 to discuss the spring tournaments.

The key to tournaments will take place on June 2. That is the deadline for teams to opt in or out of the tournament. Schools will have the ability to decide, for the safety of their students, whether or not they will participate in a spring tournament. The opt-in or out is for schools that may be in high-risk areas and do not want to risk facing teams they may not normally see.

See TOURNAMENT, page 10

Thompson Icebreaker 125 just the start of Big Outlaw Open season

WATERBURY, Vt. — Connecticut’s Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park is just over a week away from the annual Icebreaker. The 82nd season opener on Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11 is headlined by the Icebreaker 125 for the new Outlaw Open Modified Series, pitting the region’s Tour-type Modified stars in a \$10,000-to-win showdown.

Noted open-wheel racers such as Doug Coby, Craig Lutz, Bobby Santos III, Jon McKennedy, and Matt Swanson are officially committed to the Icebreaker 125. The Sunday shootout is just the beginning, though. Six Outlaw Open Series events are planned for the 2021 season with big purses and even bigger action.

It culminates with the return of the Thompson 300. The \$20,000-to-win event is part of the World Series of Speedway Racing on October 8-10. It’s been 16 years since the late Ted Christopher won the last Thompson 300 in 2005. Not only is the Icebreaker 125 important in its own right, but it also starts preparations for an event that is hallowed in Modified lore.

“The Icebreaker is always the big opener in New England to get back going and get started racing again, so I’m definitely looking forward to that,” two-time

Modified Racing Series champion Chris Pasteryak said. “As for the season in general, the way I look at it is that the Thompson 300 is the biggest Modified race of the year. So the more laps we get at Thompson over the course of the year leading up to the 300, hopefully the better we can run in it.”

In-between the Icebreaker 125 and the Thompson 300 are four \$5,000-to-win Wednesday night shows on June 16, July 7, August 11, and September 15. The Wednesday dates make it easy for teams to tackle the Thompson high banks without weekly or touring series conflicts.

In the meantime, all eyes are on the Icebreaker showdown. The event is 125 green-flag laps with teams allowed to use eight tires. Racers have to be fast and use the right strategy to stand in Victory Lane.

“I love it,” Oakdale, CT’s Zachem said of the 125-lap distance. “It’s a pit-stop race, so more or less, you are racing to halfway to figure out your pit stop situation. I’m looking forward to it. We’ve always run well over at Thompson.”

It’s definitely going to make a difference,” Moosup, CT’s Pasteryak added. “When you’re counting caution laps and you get to 50 or 60 laps to go, you nor-



Submitted photo

The Big Outlaw Open starts this weekend with the Thompson Icebreaker 125.

mally only count on getting about 35 of them under green. Whereas now when you get to 50 or 60 to go, there’s still potentially a pretty long race left. And then you know that, if you have some tires left in the pit stall, or you want to try a strategy where you hold off and pit a little bit later, you know you’re going to have that many laps to actually try and race your way back to the front and not just ride around behind the pace car to finish the day.”

A total of 29 drivers have pre-entered the event, including Keith Rocco, Mike Christopher Jr., Eric Goodale, Andrew Krause, Patrick Emerling, and Jeff Gallup. The current entry list alone accounts for dozens of champion-

ships and hundreds of race wins. Several other teams have indicated they’ll be there, setting up a stacked field with many potential winners.

The Outlaw Open Modified Series is the brainchild of PASS’s Tom Mayberry and ACT’s Cris Michaud, who are co-promoting the Thompson Speedway oval track events this season. The duo put on two events at Thompson in 2020 and have banded together to carry on the track’s storied tradition.

Thompson Speedway opened in 1940 and was long known as the “Indianapolis of the East”, attracting every notable name in motorsports. Even today, the track is revered among the racing commu-

nity. Drivers such as Ryan Preece, Harrison Burton, Bobby Santos III, and Derek Griffith have used Thompson victories as a springboard to national opportunities.

“What Cris Michaud and Tom Mayberry have done for Thompson is huge,” Zachem said. “Taking the chance last year to run the track, with everything going on with COVID...I started at the Little T Speedway in 2000 and everyone’s dream is to run the big track one day and I made it there. It’s really cool to see the track still going.”

Thompson Speedway opens its 82nd season with the annual Icebreaker on Saturday,

See RACING page 10

Photos wanted for Panthers sports

BARRE – With the upcoming season and a limited number of games and opportunities to feature current athletes, the Barre Gazette is in need of and is welcoming any and all photo submissions of Fall 2 sports beginning next week. If you are interested in either taking or submitting photos from Quabbin games for use in the Barre Gazette, please contact editor Gregory A. Scibelli at sports@turley.com.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching “turleysports.” We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.



It's SUMMER CAMP

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Factors to consider before choosing a summer camp

Adults often look back fondly on their childhood experiences at summer camp. Camps can provide the opportunity to form lifelong friendships and discover rewarding hobbies that can enrich campers' lives for decades to come.

Choosing a summer camp is no small task, as the options at families' disposal range from overnight camps to weekday afternoon camps to camps that specialize in certain programs, such as music or dance. Cost also is likely to factor into families' decisions, as the American Camp Association notes that cost can vary greatly depending on which camp families choose. For example, the ACA notes that the average daily fee at a resident camp is \$85, while the same fee at a day camp is \$43.

When looking for a summer camp for kids, families should make the decision together. Kids should be involved in the selection process, as they're more likely to have an enjoyable camp experience if they had a say in where they will be spending their summers. The following are some factors families should consider as they look for summer camps, courtesy of the ACA.

Kids' interests
The ACA urges parents to consider the child's interests and per-



sonality before choosing a summer camp. Parents might want their children to attend the same summer camp they visited as youngsters, but each child is different. Just because mom and dad liked a particular camp does not mean their children will. The ACA notes that summer camps should align with children's interests and maturity level.

Locale
Locale may only be a consideration for families considering overnight camps. Kids will likely be familiar with the locations of local day camps, but overnight camps might be set in mountain ranges, near the ocean or environments less familiar to youngsters. Kids who love the ocean might benefit from oceanfront camps that focus on marine biology, boating or other activities involving the water. In the same vein, youngsters who like camping and hiking might be more likely to embrace camps located in mountainous regions.

Session length
Camps may last as little as one week or up to a couple of months. Session length should be considered by families looking at both local day camps and overnight resident camps. Parents who want their children to enjoy a largely schedule-free summer might not want to commit their children to lengthy camp sessions, even if those sessions are close to home. If parents think their children can benefit from the same structure they're accustomed to during the school year, then an overnight camp that stretches for several weeks might be what they're looking for.

Summer camps give kids a chance to make memories that will last a lifetime. Choosing the right camp is an important decision that parents and kids should make together.



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Stoneleigh-Burnham School Offers In-Person Day & Residential Summer Camps

GREENFIELD, MA. Stoneleigh-Burnham School (SBS), an independent day and boarding school in Greenfield, Massachusetts, is pleased to announce in-person day and residential summer camps for equestrians, performing artists, debaters and public speakers ages 7-18. SBS's signature summer programs are hosted by expert faculty on their beautiful 100-acre campus in Greenfield. The programs emphasize the development of confidence, the acquisition of skills, and the discovery of new talents.

SBS's Summer Camps begin June 20, 2021 and include Speak Up I, an introduction to debate & public speaking for girls ages 10-13; Speak Up II, an advanced program for girls ages 13-18 with experience in debate & public speaking; Performing Arts Camp, a coed program for students

ages 10-18 with an interest in dancing, singing and acting; the premier Bonnie Castle Riding Camp, a riding program for girls ages 8-16 for all skill levels; and a new Horsemanship Day Camp for boys and girls ages 7-12.

Parents and guardians will be able to choose between three choices of camp structure: a day camp schedule from 8am-4pm that includes lunch, an extended day camp schedule from 8am-8pm that includes lunch and dinner, or the weekly residential camp option. There are discounts available for returning families, families who register more than one child, or those who sign up for multiple weeks. Financial assistance for day campers may also be available to those who qualify.

SBS Summer Program Director Heidi Gebo has been directing youth camps throughout Massachusetts' Pioneer Valley for 20 years. "It's important for us to be able to offer a diverse array of camp options for students and give families multiple options to help accommodate their work schedules," said Heidi.

To learn more or to register, please visit sbschool.org/summer or email summerprograms@sbschool.org.

Stoneleigh-Burnham School has (SBS) been preparing girls grades 7-12 & PG for college and the world. SBS is an academic community with an international perspective that inspires girls to pursue meaningful lives based on honor, respect, and intellectual curiosity. Each student is challenged to discover her best self and graduate with the confidence to think independently and act ethically, secure in the knowledge that her voice will be heard.

Greene Acres for those horse enthusiasts

BELCHERTOWN – Queue the Green Acres theme song because it is true, Greene Acres is the place to be. From the farm's beauty to the great people, it is an overall fantastic atmosphere and is an exceptional place to go for riding lessons, boarding, and summer camp. The lesson program at Greene Acres accommodates all ages, skill levels, and disciplines, 2 years to 100 years, beginner to advanced, western to english. Horses are taken very well care of by Amanda, the Greene team girls and boarders who are all friendly and don't ever hesitate to help.

The summer camps give kids the opportunity to learn the same things they would learn by taking a lesson but get the chance to do it all week as well as participate in fun activities such as crafts, games, or just exploring the farm. If you or your child are like me and end up sticking around you will find that Greene Acres is more than just a farm and that the people there are more than just friends. I have learned so much by riding at

Greene Acres from horse sense to common sense and life skills. But, the greatest takeaway is that the people at Greene Acres are more than just friends or a team to me, they are family. So, if you are thinking about trying horseback riding for you or your child or looking for a new barn, Greene Acres is the place to go.



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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

Franciose, June Maxine
Died April 4, 2021
Funeral Service April 9 at 12:30 p.m.
St. Thomas A Becket Church

Jankauskas, Richard Paul
Died March 31, 2021
Calling Hours April 14 from 5-8pm
Pillsbury Funeral Home

Richard (Henaghan), Anne M.
Died April 4, 2021
Funeral Mass May 22 at 11 a.m.
Holy Spirit Church, Gardner

June Maxine (Zell) Franciose, 87

BARRE – June Maxine (Zell) Franciose, 87, aka, Junie Balloonie, June Zell or June Bug, passed away peacefully Sunday, April 4, 2021, Easter morning. “When you look at me and see me, you know who I am.” June Franciose 4/02/2021.

Born in 1933 in Shelbyville, Indiana, she met the love of her life, Reggie, at a USO dance. They were married three months later and resided in Barre for the next 50 years. June enjoyed sewing, cooking and throwing parties. She delighted in dancing, singing and was a proud member of the Hubbardston Swingin’ Singin’ Seniors.

June loved the 25 years that she spent at Quabbin Regional High School working with teenagers. She possessed an unwavering morality exemplified by her life-style of generosity, loving-kindness and being a passionate champion of the underdog. She paid

it forward always; the example she set impacted many and shaped us into the people we are.

In addition to many loved family members, June is predeceased by her husband of 51 years, Reggie and adored grandson, Ryan. She leaves her children and their spouses, Dr. Reginald and Susan Franciose of Vail, CO; Margo Franciose and Doug Harris of Redding, CA; Wayne and Pamela Franciose of Barre, MA and Tracy and Brian Jette of Hubbardston, who she made her home with for the last 12 years. Her grandchildren, Graham Franciose, Tyler and Harrison Jette, Emily Franciose, and Micaela Harris, her dear friend and sister-in-law Dolly Thorng, and many nieces, nephews and extended family will miss her



love, laughter and generosity.

The funeral for June will be held on Friday, April 9, 2021 with a Mass at 12:30 p.m. in St Thomas A Becket Church Vernon Avenue, South Barre. Burial will follow in St. Josephs Cemetery in Barre.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to The Hubbardston Senior Center or a Senior Center of your choice, a school program, or a food pantry. If you can’t be with us, please find a way to honor June’s life by dancing, singing, showing kindness to someone in need or make a new friend. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road, Barre. For an online tribute please visit: Pillsburyfuneralhome.com.

Richard Paul Jankauskas, 60

BARRE – Richard Paul Jankauskas, 60, passed away suddenly on Wednesday, March 31, 2021. Richard was the son of the late Edward and Dorothy (Nicholson) Jankauskas. He was a lifelong resident of Barre and graduated from Quabbin Regional High School in 1978. He worked 30 years as a working foreman for the Barre Department of Public Works, retiring in 2015.

He served 30 years as a volunteer firefighter, 10 years as a member of the Board of Selectmen and two years on the finance committee. Richard was an avid outdoorsman. He loved to hunt and enjoyed taking his friends out on his boat to fish and to learn about nature. For several years he participated as a volunteer in the Special Olympics, taking people with intellectual disabilities out in his boat on the Quabbin Reservoir to enjoy a day of fishing. Richard especial-

ly loved charter fishing on FV Nor’ Easter in Kennebunkport, Maine with his dear friend Captain Michael Perkins, who will be honoring Richard with a burial at sea in the near future. Richard enjoyed talking and spending time with his friends, who are too many to mention, but they know who they are.

Richard leaves behind his partner of 31 years, Kathleen Howard; children, Krisie Thomas, Raymond Howard and his wife Laurie, and Jeffrey Howard; grandchildren, Tyler, Sadie, Odin, Sophia, Nikoli, and Lola Howard; sisters, Catherine Ericson, Nancy Collett, Kimberly Salvatore, and sister-in-law Kate Jankauskas; nieces and nephews Adam, Tyler, Kelly and Heidi Jankauskas, Heather Hagerty, David Ericson,



Dawn Ericson-Taylor, Jennifer Favreau, Christopher Parsons, Jamie Parse, Sarah Bourque, Michael and Nicholas Paydos, Jessica and James Gallery, Hannah, Grace and Jacob Salvatore, all whom

he loved very much. Richard is predeceased by his brothers, Edward and Thomas (his soulmate) and sisters, Elizabeth Aiken and Janet Gallery. He will be missed by all.

Friends and family are invited to attend memorial calling hours on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 from 5-8 p.m. in Pillsbury Funeral Home 96 South Barre Road in Barre. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the JD RF or Barre Sportsman’s Club, P.O. Box 111, Barre, MA 01005

Anne M. (Henaghan) Richard, 94

HUBBARDSTON – It was with great sadness that Anne M. (Henaghan) Richard, 94, of 127 Gardner Road, Hubbardston ascended heaven on her favorite holiday, Easter Sunday, April 4, at Heywood Memorial Hospital following a period of declining health, surrounded by her five children. Anne was most proud of her family and fully enjoyed the time spent with them on holidays, her annual Fourth of July family reunions, as well as Christmas open houses over the years.

She particularly cherished the special “dates” she would take her grandchildren on when they were younger. The devotion to her family was evident in the hours spent compiling cherished scrapbooks chronicling the lives of each of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. A prolific writer, she enjoyed writing poetry and had her works featured in numerous publications. However, her greatest talents came writing scores of personal poems for family members and friends for special occasions, birthdays, anniversaries and milestones in their lives.

She was born Nov. 17, 1926 in Dorchester, the oldest of seven children born to Joseph J. and Alice M. (Masterson) Henaghan. She graduated from Mission Church High School in Boston in 1945 and from Emmanuel College in Boston in 1949 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Education. She taught at Hubbardston Center School for 26 years and while there coached several sports and also wrote the school’s alma mater, which is still sung at school assemblies there.

She married her husband Louis A. Richard on May 8, 1954 and together they raised their family on Gardner Road in Hubbardston. Anne would always proudly tell the unlikely story of the school teacher from the city coming to the country, only to marry a pig farmer.

Together they celebrated 55 years of married life until Louis’ death on June 13, 2009.

Anne and Louis were among the first members of the Holy Spirit Church parish when it first opened in 1954. For more than 50 years, they devoted their time to many church activities as well as being members of Parish Council. She also served for many years as a church greeter. She was also a proud citizen of Hubbardston, serving on the town’s Bicentennial Committee of 1967. Anne outfitted her entire family, sewing period costumes to wear aboard the float created by Louis of the family pig farm. Anne would later serve on committees for the town’s 125 anniversary, as well. Following her retirement from teaching, Anne served in a number of local voluntary capacities, first as a volunteer teacher at the Elm Street School in Gardner. She later volunteered at the Gardner District Court, Heywood Memorial Hospital, the Gardner blood bank and the Organization for Abused Women and Children. Active in the Greater Gardner A.A.R.P., she was the first woman to serve in the capacity of president for a two-year term and also as secretary. She was a member of the Board of Directors, chairperson of the Scholarship Committee and wrote and directed the popular A.A.R.P. variety shows over the years. With the A.A.R.P. she received the Dedicated Service as President Award, was named one of the Outstanding Women of Gardner and also received the Outstanding Volunteer Award. She was predeceased by her parents; sister Joan Martin; brothers, Joseph and Thomas Henaghan, three siblings, who died in infancy and her son-in-law Steven Molesky. Anne leaves



her five children: Michael and his wife Peggy of Sandwich; Kathy Molesky of Hubbardston with whom she lived for the past eight months; Rosemary and her husband William LeBeau of Auburn; Jeanne and her husband Joseph Martone of Barre and Robert and his wife Patricia of West Brookfield. She also has eight grandchildren Robert Balsewice of Gardner, Casey Richard and his wife Melissa of Wall, N.J., Lindsey Richard and her significant other Blake Huggins of Medford, Chelsea Hueter and her husband Adam of Danvers, Sam LeBeau of New Orleans, Evan Molesky and his significant other Kacie Francis of Pueblo, CO and Alexander and Katherine Richard of West Brookfield. She also has four great-grandchildren, Theo and Grace Richard of New Jersey and Calvin and Jack Hueter of Danvers. She is also survived by several sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and cousins. Anne also leaves hundreds of students, who she helped to mold, nurture and inspire over her many years in the classroom. In October of 2020, a bench was dedicated in her honor at the Hubbardston Center School on the 70th anniversary of the start of her teaching career.

A Funeral Mass will be held Saturday, May 22, 2021 at 1 a.m. at Holy Spirit Church, 50 Lovewell St., Gardner. Calling hours will be held Friday, May 21, 2021 from 4-7 p.m. at Mack Funeral Home, 105 Central St., Gardner. Memorial contributions may be made in her memory to St. Jude. To leave an online condolence please visit www.mackfamilyfh.com Mack Funeral Home, 105 Central St., Gardner is assisting with arrangements.

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

April 8...

April 8, 1994 is a date I cannot seem to forget. It was the day that authorities in Washington state discovered the body of my childhood hero, Kurt Cobain (lead singer of Nirvana). For many in my generation, this loss was comparable to that of an Elvis Presley or a John Lennon. A prolific voice had gone silent and would speak-or sing-no more.

I still remember the sense of sorrow I felt upon hearing this news. My eyes were glued to the television as my young mind tried to make sense of the updates and images I ingested. I could not escape the feeling that I had lost something, personally, with the death of this icon; that my childhood had in some way ended. Moreover, I could not understand how someone who apparently had it all (e.g., wealth, prestige, etc.) could seemingly throw it all away with one pull of the trigger. How could someone possess everything and yet reach a point wherein death seemed preferable to life? Of course, in the decades since we have lost celebrity after celebrity in similar fashion, causing us to ask the same questions time and again...

Yet have we honestly entertained the corresponding answers?

It is time that we embrace the simple yet singular truth: abiding happiness and fulfillment cannot be found in the things of this world. Take a moment to prayerfully reflect upon this timeless and timely truth. If elements like joy and meaning could be found in money, power, fame, beauty, relationships, and more, why are so many who possess these things aplenty still so miserable? Despite their immense fortunes, prowess and notoriety, our national superstars are just as confused and unhappy as the masses who worship them. This points us to a principle espoused by beloved author C. S. Lewis: “If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.”

Augustine, renowned theologian and bishop of Hippo from A.D. 396-430, articulated something similar in his era. Namely, “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.” The chief end and purpose of man is, thus, to know the Lord in the context of an unceasing, intimate and love-based relationship through Christ Jesus. This sentiment is established by the teaching of Christ Himself (John 17:3): “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” Ultimate fulfillment is found in Him and in Him alone-for both time and eternity. If you will not have life everlasting and abundant through Christ, you will not have it at all (John 10:10).

Today is April 8, 2021. It has been many years since the untimely death of Kurt Cobain. We have lost a great many in the intervening years-lost souls who reached the top and still could not find what they were looking for. You need look no further. Everything that you long for and crave is found in the Lord and in His Son, Jesus Christ. Have you looked to Him? Have you placed your faith in Him? Do you know Him personally, as Lord and Savior? If so, you know the satisfaction He brings (John 4:14): “Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” If not, let today be the day you come home to Him.

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. I would love to hear from you should you desire to learn more about Christ or grow in your connection with Him. Contact me at your convenience at jamesfoley@newlifebarre.org or 978-355-6407.

Also, feel free to check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or visit us in person each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. COVID-19 protocols are presented on the aforementioned website. We hope to see you soon.

Pastor James Foley
New Life Assembly
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Easter Sunday

*“Who are you looking for?
He is Risen!”*

Our services can be found on our website at www.barrechurch.com and Facebook page.

Scripture Reading: John 20 v 1-18

I. Introduction:

I am wondering what gives you joy in life. What gives me joy? Hearing the voices of my loved ones, receiving good news, receiving phone calls or messages from people whom I have not heard from in a long time, working in our garden... can’t wait! Laughing... I love to laugh, especially when I’m with my family in South Africa. There is usually lots of laughter going on, sometimes over small things. What else gives us joy? Good news from the doctor’s, finding something that had been lost, finding a job we have been looking for, and seeing circumstances change for the better. These are all things that give us joy and peace of mind. Let us explore our passage and see how the empty tomb made the disciples and the women who followed Jesus feel when they discovered He was gone, and then to find out that He was alive.

II. The Empty Tomb

John describes the dramatic empty tomb situation in almost five different scenes: First scene, The discovery of the empty tomb by Mary Magdalene early in the morning on the first day of the week, and her running to Peter and the Beloved Disciple to let them know; second scene, Peter and the other disciple running to the tomb to see for themselves, seeing the strips of linen and the burial cloth that was around Jesus’ head; third Scene, Mary Magdalene, the empty tomb and the two angels; fourth scene, her encounter with Jesus, and fifth scene, Mary going to tell the disciples she saw Him.

This passage is filled with drama, with shock, difficult emotions, a huge miracle, and joy, all at once! All of it to give birth to the extraordinary event of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. John’s Gospel gives a little bit of a different account than the other three Gospels, for example in the others we read about more women who were present, whereas here we see Mary Magdalene as the only woman who was a witness to the empty tomb and His resurrected Body. The time between His death, burial and the empty tomb can only be described as a big hole of darkness for those early disciples and the women like Mary Magdalene. His presence, His love, His endearing Spirit, that gave them meaning in life, were all gone.

To arrive at the empty tomb must have shaken their worlds even more. Who would have done such a thing to steal the Body of their dear Christ. Did they not do enough to bring only pain to them and His family? They, the ones who could not stand His message of love and compassion and justice. They who crucified Him. We do not know for sure what they must have felt as they arrived at the empty tomb. We know that Mary Magdalene’s message made Peter and the other disciple run, their hearts pounding, just to get to see for themselves what happened.

III. Who are you looking for? He is Risen.

Mary Magdalene’s encounter with the angels is short. She did not go home like the other disciples did. She stayed and she was weeping, and then she looked inside the

tomb to see for herself what happened. There they were, two angels sitting where Jesus’ body was. She receives the first question from the angels, “Why are you crying?” they asked her. They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they put His body. They did not answer her. When she looked around and saw this other person, the apparent gardener, He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? He also asked her another question, “Who is it that you’re looking for?” This person saw her tears, but went further than the angels, and asked her whom she was looking for. He saw the sorrow and the shock and the complex emotions she was feeling. He then brought her pain to an end by calling her name, “Mary!” That is all He needed to say, and her eyes opened and recognized Him as her Lord. He called her name, and she recognized Him. Whether she knew and realized that He was risen from the dead as He said He would, we don’t know, but He is here, right in front of her. “I have seen the Lord,” we read she tells the disciples when she saw them. She was filled with joy.

The disciple whom Jesus loved, saw the empty tomb and he believed, says the text. Leon Morris says it so nicely. He must have believed, even though he did not fully understand the resurrection. Who would have understood it? It was a mystery! It just happened! Even though Christ told them He would rise again, they had no idea what it meant.

IV. Who are you looking for? He is risen.

This is the power of Easter. It is about the Risen Christ who changes Maundy Thursday and Good Friday into a powerful Resurrection. We do not have to wander around and be asked by others whom we are looking for. We have our Christ Who is Risen. He has turned suffering into victory, victory over death! This Risen Christ knows our names, each one of our names. When we are distraught, afraid, feeling lost, angry, Christ is standing behind us, He is with us, calling our names. He is the Christ who asks what is wrong, why are we crying or why are we angry, and when Christ does, we will know it is Him, because of His love and compassion that fill our whole being. Whom are you looking for? What a powerful question coming from Christ, our Lord. Powerful, because after He said it, He became recognizable to Mary Magdalene. He appeared and gave Mary Magdalene and the disciples what they needed, restoration from their pain and loss and sadness. He appeared at their lowest and brought them great joy!

V. Conclusion

So, it looks like we do not have to look very far for help, for deliverance from sin or suffering, because the work has been done for us. Christ knows what and whom you and I are looking for. Christ knows us at our highest and our lowest points, and He knows our names like the Good Shepherd knows the name of every sheep. This is the message of Easter, that Christ is Risen, He is here, and we can rejoice in it. Yes, we can jump up and down, we can run and tell others about the joy we feel when we hear Christ’s voice. We need not be ashamed of it, because it is a message that the world needs so much right now.

Have a blessed Easter everyone. Amen

Pastor Margaret Keyser
Barre Congregational Church



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